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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/098,511 | 03/18/2002 | Tetsuo Ozeki | 020257 | 4427 |
| 23850 | 7590 | 04/20/2004 | | |
| | | ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP | EXAMINER | |
| | | 1725 K STREET, NW | | SAVAGE, MATTHEW O |
| | | SUITE 1000 | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | WASHINGTON, DC 20006 | | 1723 |

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/098,511 | OZEKI ET AL. |
| | Examiner Matthew O Savage | Art Unit 1723 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2003.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04/25/02
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

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Applicant's election of group I in the response filed on 11-21-03 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Groups I-V corresponding to claims 1-11 will be examined together. Groups VI-VII corresponding to claims 12-20 have been withdrawn from consideration.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, following must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s):

The embodiment in which the main body side coupling portion fits in a filtration side fitting member as recited in claim 5;

The embodiment in which the filtration portion side stopping member is allowed to move only in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of the filtration side coupling portion as recited in claims 7 and 11.

No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the

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art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 5, 7, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The specification fails to adequately disclose the embodiment in which the main body side coupling portion fits in a filtration side fitting member as recited in claim 5;

The specification fails to adequately disclose the embodiment in which the filtration portion side stopping member is allowed to move only in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of the filtration side coupling portion as recited in claims 7 and 11.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Heiligman.

With respect to claim 7, Heiligman discloses a water purifier portion including a raw water accepting inlet 34b for accepting raw water from a water purifier main body, a purified water outlet 54 for releasing purified water, a filtration portion side coupling 34b

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that couples to the water purifier main body at the raw water accepting inlet in a detachable and attachable manner, the filtration portion side coupling portion being provided with a filtration side stopping member 34c for coupling the water purifier portion to the water purifier main body by stopping and being stopped by a main body side stopping member 30, the filtration side portion stopping member being provided in such a manner that the stopping member is allowed only to move in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of the filtration portion side coupling portion in a connection operation and a disconnection operation of the water purifier filtration portion and the water purifier main body.

With respect to claim 11, Heiligman discloses a water purifier portion, a water purifier main body 20 coupled to the water purifier filtration portion in a detachable and attachable manner, the water purification portion including a raw water accepting inlet 34b for accepting raw water from a water purifier main body, a purified water outlet 54 for releasing purified water, a filtration portion side coupling 34b that couples to the water purifier main body at the raw water accepting inlet in a detachable and attachable manner, the filtration portion side coupling portion being provided with a filtration side stopping member 34c for coupling the water purifier portion to the water purifier main body by stopping and being stopped by a main body side stopping member 30, the filtration side portion stopping member being provided in such a manner that the stopping member is allowed only to move in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of the filtration portion side coupling portion in a

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connection operation and a disconnection operation of the water purifier filtration portion and the water purifier main body.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heiligman.

With respect to claim 1, Heiligman discloses a water purifier main body 20 including a raw water inlet 18, a raw water supply inlet 30, and a main body side coupling portion 30 that couples to a water purifier filtration portion 34 for filtering raw water flowing from the raw water inlet at the raw supply inlet in a detachable and attachable manner, the main body side coupling portion being provided with a main body side stopping member 30 for coupling the water purifier filtration portion to the water purifier main body by stopping and being stopped by a filtration portion side stopping member 34c provided to the water purifier filtration portion. Heiligman discloses a side stopping member 34c as being provided to the water purifier filtration portion as opposed to the main body 20 in such a manner that the stopping member 34c is allowed to move only in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of the filtration portion and main body in a connection operation and a disconnection operation of the water purification filtration portion and

the water purifier main body, however, the reversal of such parts is considered obvious (see *In re Gazda*, 219 F.2d 449, 104 USPQ 400 (CCPA 1955)).

Concerning claim 2, Heiligman discloses the side stopping member 34c as being housed on a supporting member (e.g., defined by clip 34c) in the side coupling portion 34b, the supporting member being sandwiched between a pair of outer edge portions (e.g., defined by the groove 34d) provided to an inner wall of the side coupling portion to prevent the supporting member from moving in a flowing direction of the raw water passing through the coupling portion in such a manner that the supporting member 34c is allowed to slide in the one direction.

Regarding claim 3, Heiligman discloses the supporting member as being provided with a resilient body (e.g., defined by the clip 34c) for pushing the support member when sliding in the one direction.

Concerning claim 5, Heiligman discloses a main body side coupling portion 30 that fits in a filtration portion side fitting member 34b provided to the water purifier filtration portion, and a main body side fitting member 30a for preventing the main body side coupling portion from rotating around an axial core.

With respect to claim 6, Heiligman discloses a water purifier portion including a raw water accepting inlet 34b for accepting raw water from a water purifier main body, a purified water outlet 54 for releasing purified water, a filtration portion side coupling 34b that couples to the water purifier main body at the raw water accepting inlet in a detachable and attachable manner, the filtration portion side coupling portion being provided with a filtration side stopping member 34c for coupling the water purifier

portion to the water purifier main body by stopping and being stopped by a main body side stopping member 30, the water purifier filtration portion being coupled to the water purifier main body by said filtration side stopping member in a detachable and attachable manner, the water purifier main body including the main body side coupling portion provided with the main body side stopping member for coupling the water purifier filtration portion to the water purifier main body by stopping and being stopped by the filtration portion side stopping member provided to the water purifier filtration portion. Heiligman discloses the stopping member provided to the filtration side coupling portion as opposed to the main body side coupling portion in such a manner that the stopping member is allowed only to move in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of the filtration or main body side coupling portion in a connection operation and a disconnection operation of the water purifier filtration portion and the water purifier main body, however, the reversal of such parts is considered obvious (see *In re Gazda*, 219 F.2d 449, 104 USPQ 400 (CCPA 1955)).

With respect to claim 10, Heiligman discloses a water purifier main body 20, a water purifier filtration portion 34 coupled to the water purifier main body in a detachable and attachable manner, a raw water inlet 18, a raw water supply inlet 30, and a main body side coupling portion 30 that couples to a water purifier filtration portion 34 for filtering raw water flowing from the raw water inlet at the raw supply inlet in a detachable and attachable manner, the main body side coupling portion being provided with a main body side stopping member 30 for coupling the water purifier filtration portion to the water purifier main body by stopping and being stopped by a filtration portion side

stopping member 34c provided to the water purifier filtration portion. Heiligman discloses a side stopping member 34c as being provided to the water purifier filtration portion as opposed to the main body 20 in such a manner that the stopping member 34c is allowed to move only in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of the filtration portion and main body in a connection operation and a disconnection operation of the water purification filtration portion and the water purifier main body, however, the reversal of such parts is considered obvious (see *In re Gazda*, 219 F.2d 449, 104 USPQ 400 (CCPA 1955)).

Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C., 112, first paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew O Savage whose telephone number is (571) 272-1146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 6:00am-2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda W. Walker can be reached on (571) 272-1151. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

M. Savage
Matthew O Savage
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1723

mos
April 16, 2004